

TUESDAY 3RD AUGUST 2021
VISIT TO NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1.30PM DR JOHN GARDNER
SCRIPTED BY WHOM? 1820 AND THEATRES OF REBELLION
John.gardner@aru.ac.uk

1. Why do you believe that the Cato Street Conspiracy was scripted from the start? Talk about revolutionaries being entrapped.
2. What were the three executions in 1820 that you believe brought together the concept of theatre and execution? Cato Street, Glasgow Stirling
3. How did the radical newspapers '*Black Dwarf*' and '*The Champion*' portray the conspiracy? A Trap
4. Can you tell us about Byron's parody of the Cato Street Conspiracy, '*Marino Faliero*'? Set in 14th century
5. What was dangerous about performing this play at Drury Lane so soon after the execution of the conspirators? Cut heavily. Alliance between plebians and aristo
6. Why do you say that Byron the liberal often conflicted with Byron the aristocrat? Preposterous. Walking talking negative capability
7. What evidence is there that Byron's friend John Cam Hobhouse may have been entangled in the conspiracy and would have been asked to lead a revolutionary government? Two files; diary of arbutnot
8. How similar was the real execution to the fictional one portrayed in *Maniero Faliero*? The head
9. Do you agree with Byron that those who 'die in a great cause' are immortal? Israel bertuccio in Marino
10. How does Robert Shaw's play Cato Street make us reconsider the role women played in radical politics? fits the time
11. How has William Davidson been portrayed in recent dramatic interpretations of the Cato Street Conspiracy? racist and also a victim
12. How do the plays, *Thistlewood* and *The Rising* link the story of what happened with the Cato Street Conspiracy with events that took place in Scotland in 1820?

13. What importance is given to Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights in the literary response to the Cato Street Conspiracy? Yes, they are called on.

14. Is it fair to blame the radical events of 1820 pin solely on agent provocateurs? No. I think that this was practice that had been used to draw out and prevent. A prophylactic

- **Do you believe that the conspirators were heroes or villains?**
-
- **Brave people. Devastating letters asking to see their families. Byron sees them in the guise of romans. They refused the services of the minister--except Davidson--they expected no heavenly reward. they went to their deaths**

1.30PM SIMON MCKEON NATIONAL ARCHIVES ROBERT STEWART VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Stewart,_Viscount_Castlereagh

Simon.Mckeon@nationalarchives.gov.uk Tel: 07853250013

1. Can you tell me about Castlereagh's life in Ireland, his involvement in the Act of Union and opposition to Irish nationalists?
 2. Peterloo was a rally against the lack of democracy in Britain's parliamentary system. How does Castlereagh's election as MP for Down in 1790 exemplify this corruption?
 3. Why did Castlereagh's involvement in the execution of Rev William Potter lead to him gaining a reputation for personal vindictiveness?
 4. What impact did Castlereagh have as Foreign Secretary and Leader of the House of Commons in Liverpool's government from 1812 until 1822?
 5. Why was Castlereagh such a figure of hate amongst the general public?
 6. Why did Castlereagh challenge fellow Cabinet Minister George Canning to a duel?
 7. What were the repressive acts of parliament that Castlereagh pushed through with Home secretary Lord Sidmouth after Peterloo?
 8. What words did Shelley use to lampoon Castlereagh in his poem Masque of Anarchy?
 9. What did conspirator James Ings plan to do to Castlereagh and Lord Sidmouth?
 10. Did Castlereagh ever come face to face with those that had planned to kill him?
 11. What evidence is there that Castlereagh became increasingly paranoid after the Cato Street Conspiracy was uncovered?
 12. What were the circumstances of Castlereagh's death
- **Do you believe that the conspirators were heroes or villains?**

2.15PM JASON MCELLIGOTT MARSH'S LIBRARY DUBLIN

1. What are the main ideas in the proclamation addressed to 'Englishmen' found on Davidson's person after he was arrested and searched?
 2. If the proclamations were so important to the conspiracy, why were they never printed?
 3. Why were they never referred to in the court cases that led to 5 men being executed and 5 others being transported for life to Australia?
 4. What were the links between the Cato Street conspirators and Irish rebels in London?
 5. Do the links with Irish rebels help to explain the text of the proclamation addressed to 'Englishmen'.
 6. Are there other proclamations at the time in Britain to Ireland?
 7. The note found on William Davidson was linked to the formation of a provisional revolutionary government. Who do you believe they would have chosen to lead it?
 8. Do you believe the Cato Street conspiracy was part of a genuine national plan for a UK wide revolution?
 9. What links do you believe there were between the Cato Street Conspirators and Irish nationalists?
 10. Can you tell me about the significance of the discovery of the note from Thomas J Wooler to William Hone in relation to the Cato Street Conspiracy?
- **Do you believe that the conspirators were heroes or villains?**

CHRIS DAY RECORD EXPERT NATIONAL ARCHIVES

<https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/actors-offering-lord-sidmouths-spies/>

<https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-peterloo-massacre/>

1. Can you tell me why working men had been agitating for reform to Parliament in the period before the Cato Street Conspiracy?
 2. What role did the London Corresponding Society play in campaigning for democratic reforms?
 3. Can you tell us about some of the leading member of the London Corresponding Society and in particular Thomas Spence who had so much influence on the Cato Street Conspirators?
 4. What were Hampden clubs and how did the government respond to their formation?
 5. Who were the Luddites and why did they worry the government so much?
 6. How did the government's use of the Spy Oliver to betray the Pentrich Rising of 1817 influence how it dealt with the Cato Street Conspiracy?
 7. How did the government spy network develop following Peterloo?
 8. Who was George Edwards? Was he an 'agent provocateur'?
 9. What was King's evidence? (Which conspirators were persuaded to give it?)
 10. Why was George Edwards not called as a witness at the Old Bailey trial of the Cato Street Conspirators?
 11. What happened to George Edwards and the King's evidence men after the execution of the Cato Street Conspirators?
- **Do you believe that the conspirators were heroes or villains?**

ANDREW PAYNE HEAD OF EDUCATION

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

https://medium.com/@The_History_Man/does-magna-carta-matter-7dde7948e

1. Why is Magna Carta still so important over 800 years after it was written?
 2. Why do you think Magna Carta has inspired so many radical reformers?
 3. Why did the Cato Street Conspirators feel that Lord Liverpool's government were undermining both Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights (1689)?
 4. On what grounds could Arthur Thistlewood accuse Lord Liverpool's government itself of committing treason at Peterloo?
 5. Did Arthur Thistlewood and William Davidson have any grounds for using Magna Carta in their defence at the Old Bailey?
 6. Did Magna Carta lead to the development of constitutional government and Parliament in Britain?
- **Do you believe that the conspirators were heroes or villains?**